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Bangalore Mirror

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‘Snake-infested’ restrooms, overgrown weeds, lack of water & lights, damp walls await children at anganwadi

NURSERY CRIMES

‘Waste dumped on passage to restrooms’

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Has the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) failed to implement its own resolution to end open defecation in the city? It seems so, going by the condition of restrooms at an anganwadi and nursery school near Vasanth Nagar.

With no water supply, hapless children from economically weaker families are compelled to attend nature’s call on the open space available adjacent to the anganwadi centre and the nursery school.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) council passed a resolution on December 27, 2018 declaring all wards as open defecation free (ODF) as part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

There are indeed restrooms for the children at the facility but the kids dread to use the restrooms because the facility is infested with snakes, we are told.

The space adjacent to the restrooms is overgrown with weeds; an ideal place for snakes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

“Anganwadis are for the development of children. How can you expect that under these conditions? — Nagasimha G Rao, director, Child Rights Trust

Lake lustre

Survey attempts to understand the relationship between waterbodies and citizens

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A majority of lake users in Bengaluru lived within a 1-km radius, a survey conducted by lake activists on lake use has revealed. About 89% of respondents stayed within the proximity of the lake premises and 69% respondents were first-time visitors.

An organisation working for social and ecological justice, Action Aid Association, compiled a report on ‘Lake Use’ by surveying Chunchaghatta, Doddakallasandra, Dorekere and Kothnur lakes over a period of 7 days. The purpose of the survey was to understand people’s views on lakes, and the expectations of lake users.

As per the report filed with the help of inputs from 394 respondents, 46% of respondents lived within less than a 1-km radius of the lake, 43% lived within the neighbourhood, 9% lived further than 1 km, and 2% were not Bengaluru residents.

About 17% of lake users were first-time respondents and 83% were regular users.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Theatrical marvel

Experience an evening of entertainment with music and drama, featuring the theatrical brilliance of 'Ray Babu,' an anthology presenting Satyajit Ray's two stories, Patol Babu and Asamanjas Babu. **Where: Ranga Shankara When: November 14, 7.30 pm**

02 Living canvas

Experience a blend of art and ambience as you stroll through the exhibition, envisioning the pieces seamlessly integrated into your living spaces. **Where: Verde Canvas Art Gallery When: Until November 19**

03 Abstract harmony

Immerse in 'The Endless Mind,' an abstract dance and musical exploration of Annamacharya's 15th-century poem, a meditative journey through introspection. **Where: Shoonya, Centre for Art and Somatic Practices; When: November 17, 7.30 pm**

Colourful celebrations Participants draw Rangoli during the Rangoli competition organised by the Cubbon Park Walkers Association on the occasion of Deepawali, in Bengaluru on Sunday

Pet-proofing Deepawali

Experts recommend establishing quiet havens, introducing anxiety wraps, maintaining soothing presence for dogs amid Deepawali fireworks

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As the festive season of Deepawali approaches, synonymous with joy and celebration, it's crucial to recognise the stress and anxiety it can bring to our four-legged friends, both domestic and stray. The explosive sounds of fireworks and firecrackers that light up the night sky might dazzle us, but they can be a source of profound distress for dogs.

Animal activists and veterinarians have suggested steps for pet owners and others to help dogs, both at home and on the streets, cope with the challenges of Deepawali, emphasizing that providing a comfortable space for them during the festivities is paramount.

Dr Navaz Shariff from the People for Animals Wildlife Hospital in Bangalore said, "Creating a designated area, be it a crate, a quiet room, or a cosy corner, equipped with blankets and pillows, can serve as a retreat for your dog. Playing calming music or white noise can help drown out the startling sounds of fireworks, offering a sense of security. Understanding the power of pheromones and using a diffuser emitting these natural chemicals can contribute to a more relaxed environment for your dog. Additionally, investing in a thunder shirt or anxiety wrap, which applies gentle pressure to the dog's body, may alleviate stress."

He further added, "A well-thought-out schedule, starting with a morning walk or playtime to tire out your dog, can set a positive tone for the day. This physical activity can help reduce anxiety and make your dog less reactive to noise later in the day. If stress does arise, maintaining a calm demeanour is crucial. Reassure your dog with a soothing voice and gentle petting, avoiding punishment for their natural reactions." During Deepawali, experts have advised taking dogs for a long walk in the afternoon to establish a quiet haven complemented by calming music or white noise. In the evening, introduce a thunder shirt or anxiety wrap and a brief walk or play session before the fireworks commence. At night, if stress arises, maintain a calm and reassuring presence, employing a gentle touch and soothing words.

Dr Nawaz added, "If a dog exhibits signs of fear or anxiety, escort them to their safe space, speak to them in a calm and soothing manner, and offer a treat or toy as a comforting distraction. If shaking or trembling, provide gentle pets. For severe cases of anxiety, consulting with a veterinarian is recommended before considering medication. It's essential to recognise each dog's unique needs, as what works for one may not work for another."

KB Harish, a rescuer, said, "We see a minimum of 15 cases reported for rescues every day. Other animal lovers, volunteers, and organizations handle another 30 cases in Bangalore. Animal lovers or residents should be cautious and keep an eye on strays while bursting crackers. Ensure that trash bins are securely closed to prevent animals from scavenging on harmful substances. Post-Deepawali, monitor your neighbourhood for distressed animals in the days following Deepawali and report any injuries or issues promptly."

The explosive sounds of fireworks and firecrackers that light up the night sky can be a source of profound distress for dogs

> **"A well-thought-out schedule, starting with a morning walk or playtime to tire out your dog, can set a positive tone for the day** – Dr Navaz Shariff

Brighter Diwali, cleaner Bengaluru

In the spirit of Deepawali, the festival of lights, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the "Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali" campaign under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0. Supported by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), this initiative aims to inspire citizens to adopt a more responsible and eco-friendly approach to celebrating Deepawali, fostering a sense of environmental responsibility and community involvement. The Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali campaign seeks to promote environmentally conscious choices during the festival of Deepawali. A significant aspect of this initiative is emphasising the importance of cleanliness before and after Deepawali celebrations. Citizens are encouraged to participate in clean-up activities and maintain a clean environment throughout the festival. The campaign also urges people to celebrate a Deepawali free from single-use plastic, helping to reduce plastic pollution.

Train to airport halts again

Frequent derailing of services will discourage patronage of MEMU trains, expert cautions

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The South Western Railways (SWR) has once again withdrawn the MEMU services connecting the city to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) through rail till November 20. Abrupt stoppages and lack of punctuality has resulted in low ridership of the services despite the rail being one of the cheapest and fastest modes to reach the airport.

Rail activists have called upon the SWR to be consistent with the services it provides to ensure that commuters can use them reliably, eventually increasing footfall.

The MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) trains were introduced to make airport travel convenient for commuters, considering the long distance from most neighbourhoods in the city to the airport. Along with this, the services provided were significantly economical for passengers, as the train fare was set at Rs 30 to Rs 35 per person. The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation's (BMTC) Vayu Vajra services which also provide exclusive services connecting to the airport cost a maximum of Rs 336 depending on the location. On the other hand, cab fares found through aggregator applications can reach a whopping Rs 2,000. Despite this, the ridership of the MEMU trains remains low due to lack of punctuality.

In June, the SWR had stopped the services citing lack of poor patronage. Citizens for Citizens (C4C) had written to the then Divisional Railway Manager of Bengaluru, Shyam Singh, seeking a revival. It had noted that noted that the commute of 1.5 lakh people on a daily basis from the city to the airport or vice versa is currently 100 per cent road-centric as the metro to the airport terminal will only be ready by 2026. Along with this, the construction of a suburban rail network connecting to the airport is yet to begin.

It had also suggested that punctuality must be given high priority, as the MEMUs previously ran with less than 10 out of 100 trips being on time (+/- 2 mins). "The routes and timings need to be reworked. Specifically, services are required from Whitefield as well as Heelalige routes. In addition, regular services from Cantonment to Chikkaballapur will definitely help. Similarly, if KSR City railway station is saturated, then regular services from Yeshwanthpur will also help," the letter had noted, adding that an extension of at least one suitable train service from all surrounding towns directly to Chikkaballapur, including Tumkur, Mysuru, Hosur, and Bangarpet, will also be beneficial.

Rajkumar Dugar, from C4C, said, "Random withdrawal of services is making the mode unreliable. The trains must ensure punctuality by having a difference of two minutes with the arrival or departure only. By doing this, the SWR will ensure better revenues and will also help in reducing congestion as the only mode of travel now is road centric, may it be a car, bus or two-wheeler."

No to narcos: Citizens miffed with misuse of parks

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In a meeting with the police in Jayanagar, some residents of the areas expressed concern about youngsters smoking marijuana in parks nearby.

"I have seen some high school students sitting in the park and smoking at midnight. They run off when they see people approach, but are back after a while," claimed a resident.

Vajapeyam Srivatsa, a resident, said that around many apartment buildings, sale and consumption of marijuana is going on."One can often see these students standing outside the apartment buildings, even indulging in sales of narcotics. Even young children are getting addicted because of the easy supply. Recently, we called the police and a person was caught selling drugs. It has become common near apartment buildings, because nobody keeps track of what goes on," said Srivatsa.

He added that the situation in some other areas is worse. "The students even know where they can easily find drugs. They call up the supplier and they would be given the exact spot for pickup. And nobody catches them," he added.

Another resident said he recently caught three kids in Jayanagar area consuming drugs. "The ease with which it is possible to get and consume drugs makes it seem like police are hand-in-glove with the culprits," said a resident.

A police official told BM that during late evenings and nights, young people are caught smoking marijuana in some areas. "We can book them under drug consumption cases or track the main supplier. We need to keep informers and do continuous patrolling," they said.

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B'luru's future roadmap: BBMP's quest for clarity

BBMP to take up feasibility study to select best infra plan for Bengaluru

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Despite numerous infrastructure projects planned for Bengaluru, the city lacks clarity on the most suitable ones. In response, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is launching a feasibility study to identify the optimal project. This report will play a pivotal role in deciding between tunnel roads, grade separators, or road widening projects.

An official said, "In an effort to decongest city roads, a comprehensive road infrastructure project, along with the maintenance of select corridors, tunnel roads, and grade separators, has been initiated through a short-term tender. The chosen company for the project will conduct a study of 12 high-density corridors spanning 193 km. The study aims to determine the most effective plan for decongesting these corridors through tunnels, grade separators at key junctions, or road widening. Currently, eight companies have been qualified for the project, and one of these chosen companies will be selected to carry out the Detailed Project Report (DPR). The company quoting the lowest amount will be awarded the contract for the feasibility study. The DPR will assess various issues, including toll plaza construction site, design and toll model, design and location for ramps, loops, interchange, bus bay, shelter design and planning, environmental impact, utility shifting, and estimated cost."

BBMP's plan for Bengaluru's high-density corridors: a feasibility study to ease congestion and enhance urban mobility

BBMP has identified 12 high-density corridors in Bengaluru. "In the initial phase, we are looking to incorporate 65 km of tunnel roads. The project cost will become clearer once the DPR is ready, but current estimates suggest it could be around Rs 50,000 crore. We plan to undertake the tunnel road project through a public-private partnership (PPP) model, specifically using the build-operate-toll (BOT) mode. This implies that all tunnel roads will be tolled. Should the contractor opt for the BOT-toll model, the state government may not need to invest significantly, as the private operator will assume the costs and recoup them through toll collection over a predetermined period. These tunnel roads are expected to feature a width of six lanes, facilitating the passage of heavy vehicles alongside regular traffic. Some potential routes under consideration for tunnel roads include Mehkri Circle to Central Silk Board, KR Puram to Goraguntepalya, Varthur Kodi to Jnanabharati, and Wheelers Road to Kalyan Nagar. The introduction of tunnel roads is seen as a significant step toward addressing Bengaluru's mounting traffic congestion and improving overall urban mobility", said an official.

Earlier, BBMP had planned to take up the works on a high-density corridor for Rs 273 crore. The police have identified the following corridors as high-density corridors in the city: Old Ballari Road (Chalukya Circle to Hebbal); Old Madras Road (Trinity junction to KR Puram and KR Puram to NH 648 via Hoodi, Hope farm, and ITPL); Old Airport road (ASC centre to Kadugodi); Sarjapur road (St John's Hospital to Carmelaram); Hosur Road (Vellara junction to Central Silk Board); Bannerghatta road (Dairy circle to NICE road); Kanakapura road (KR Road to NICE road); Mysuru road (Hudson circle to NICE road); Magadi road (Old Binny Mill to NICE road); Tumakuru road (Okalipuram to Goraguntepalya); Chord Road (Soap factory to Mysuru road); and Outer Ring Road (Goraguntepalya to Goraguntepalya).

> **"The study aims to determine the most effective plan for decongesting these corridors through tunnels, grade separators at key junctions, or road widening** – An official

The previous government had approved the project on December 17, 2022. Though the original project included 12 corridors, three were left out as Metro works were ongoing. The previous government had handed over the project to KRDCL for development and maintenance, but there was severe resistance from the BBMP. Subsequently, the government handed it over to BBMP.

Potholes, bumps and jams: Hennur's traffic tale

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Daily commuters traversing Hennur Road face many challenges, including persistent traffic congestion aggravated by a narrow railway bridge and a road in dire condition, riddled with potholes and prone to waterlogging during rainfall.

The residents who have been living for more than a decade near Hennur have raised concerns over the stretch as now the population numbers have been going up with various apartment complexes having come up in the vicinity and with the Hennur Bagalur main road serving as an alternative road to the airport road there has been increase in the number of vehicular movement.

Subramanian from Hennur Taskers, who has been residing in Hennur since 2007, said, "The railway underpass width is so narrow that only one car can pass through at a time. On either side of the railway underpass are three lanes submerged to one lane leading to the underpass, which is the first issue. Secondly, the road near Bagalur side is filled with potholes and patchy roads. With small spells of rain, there is water logging. During the peak hours in the morning, there is 1 km of traffic jam on either side or the same during the evening. As soon as we cross the underpass from the airport side, around 50 metres, they were going to construct a culvert which was left incomplete; due to that, there is a sharp bump, and vehicles have to slow down, crossing the bump again, leading to congestion." Residents emphasise the exponential growth in the number of apartments from 100-200 in pre-COVID times to over 5000 now. Despite the high apartment costs, there is a conspicuous absence of proper approach roads and basic amenities for citizens.

Daily commuters traversing Hennur Road struggle with narrow railway bridge, potholes, and waterlogging woes

Subramanian added, "Recently, I went to the Outer ring road at a distance of 2 km from my residence. The location to reach would just take me 5 mins, but it took around 45 mins as it was raining and the traffic movement was extremely slow. Another problem is that the stretch is badly lit. We have highlighted all the issues to the BBMP and elected representatives, but nothing has been done. There are many elderly care homes located in the vicinity, and if they require an ambulance service to go to the hospital at any point in time, then they would be stuck in traffic for hours. "

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Cleanup call

Basavanagudi

There is always a heap of dried leaves and other garbage on the footpath near a house across Sai Niwas apartment on Ratnavilas Road. Urgent action is required.

Sidewalk mess

P Kalingarao Road

The footpath alongside P Kalingarao Road is filled with dirt and waste, creating a disheartening and unsightly scene.

Drain delay

SP Road

An open drain on SP Road, the city's electronics and commercial hub, has been left unrepaired by BWSSB for the past 10 days. Urgent attention is required.

Wither and thither: BBMP cancels tender for plants

Prices quoted incorrect, so Palike to reissue tender; environmentalists stress on need for maintenance of saplings

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There is some bad news for lovers of the city's green patches. Nearly a week after calling a tender for the maintenance of monsoon plantations and future plantations, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has cancelled the tender, citing technical issues. The BBMP had taken a solid step towards protecting the saplings it had planted by allowing for the maintenance of future green cover. Every year, the Palike makes a lot of effort to plant saplings but many of them suffer due to lack of maintenance and just a few make it. A holistic approach to taking care of plantations can ensure their survival, it is believed.

BM had reported on Nov 4 about BBMP floating tender for maintenance of plantations

This is why the BBMP had issued 33 tenders for the maintenance of plantations across eight zones of Bengaluru. The tender was aimed at providing maintenance for the nearly 1 lakh monsoon plantations made in 2022-2023 and future plantations 1 lakh between 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

File photo of newly planted saplings on a narrow stretch of a footpath; bamboo guards were placed around saplings to protect them

Error in prices

However, on November 11, BBMP issued a statement stating that the tender had been cancelled and that it would be reissued in a new form. A few days back, the Palike had issued an addendum stating that the prices quoted in the tender were incorrect. The tender was initially floated for maintenance of nearly 2 lakh trees for a sum of Rs 3,60,00,000 for a period of two years. A maximum number of trees will be planted in Yelahanka zone (16,300) and Mahadevapura (15,800) and it would have cost the Palike Rs 180 per tree.

Re-tender soon

Activists say that BBMP must re tender and ensure the maintenance of the plantations. "It's very important that BBMP calls this tender again. They used to call the tender for planting and not focus on maintenance. In this way, the sapling won't grow into a tree and lead to a huge waste of money. Maintenance is very important, especially for Bengaluru city. Due to urbanisation and concretisation, this process is very important. An additional expenditure towards the maintenance could ensure the survival of saplings," said tree activist Vijay Nishanth.

The Palike planted 1 lakh saplings at the cost of Rs 9 crore in 2022. From seedling to raising, it was estimated that the Palike would have to bear Rs 990 per tree. The higher cost was estimated due to the installation of bamboo guards around the trees.

IN BRIEF

35 policemen make transfer plea

A strange incident has taken place in the Karnataka police department. More than 35 personnel of the Cubbon Park police station in the city have written a letter to the higher-ups requesting that they be transferred elsewhere. As many as 12 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 24 Head Police Constables of Cubbon Park police station have requested for transfer. A question has also arisen whether they have requested for transfer because of some internal conflict. — BMB

NIA: Terror accused recced K'taka

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed a chargesheet in the Pune Islamic State (ISIS) module case naming seven people as accused and revealed that the accused, who were educated, worked in prominent companies and used code words for making improvised explosive devices (IEDs). "The accused carried out a recce in Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, and Karnataka to carry out terror attacks. They also used a drone, which is now seized, for photography and videography," the NIA said. — ANI

Third time unlucky: Barrier falls yet again

Panathur Railway Under Bridge's height barrier has fallen apart once more; citizens question quality of repair work

The height barrier placed before the Panathur Railway Under Bridge (RuB) has come crashing once again. The height barrier had come apart in February too, after an unidentified vehicle collided with it. A similar incident is also reported to have taken place in October, in the same area, after the driver of a lorry went through the height barrier, resulting in it breaking into two halves. Fortunately, both the incidents have not resulted in civilian injuries.

However, residents have raised concerns over the quality of the repair work undertaken as the barrier has fallen yet again. If such an incident were to take place again, it might even result in a casualty as the Panathur RuB is infamous for having numerous vehicles stuck at the spot, waiting to cross the underbridge which has just enough space for the movement of a single four-wheeler at a time.

"Political corruption is so rampant in Bengaluru that it has also infected the railways. A railway crossing gate has fallen twice in 9 months! During the British era, these kinds of structures lasted for at least 50 years!," Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru, an NGO, wrote on its X handle, regarding the issue while tagging relevant railway authorities for immediate action. The same group had highlighted the incident that took place in February.

The Whitefield Traffic Police handle also took to the social media site to highlight the issue. "The height barrier at Panathur Railway Underpass is broken while coming from HAL towards Whitefield. Needful will be done. Concerned department informed," the police wrote along with a picture of the incident.

Residents have called for immediate repair that will last longer and for strict scrutiny of vehicles entering the underbridge. — BMB

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Vengaiah Lake: Walls rise, concerns surge

Concerns escalate as lake revitalisation faces extended delays, land encroachment issues

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(Inset) Construction of a wall for fencing Vengaiah Lake

The prolonged delay in restoring Vengaiah Lake is causing unease among environmentalists and residents of K R Puram, TC Palya, and neighbouring areas. The focus of their unease has shifted to the apparent failure of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities in ensuring that the revenue department conducts surveys to reclaim land encroached upon by the land mafia. Adding to the worries is the commencement of construction on a protective wall around the lake before initiating the crucial desilting process. This sequence of events has left locals and environmental advocates uneasy, raising questions about the prioritisation of the lake's restoration efforts and the effectiveness of measures taken by the authorities.

The BBMP Lakes Department has faced criticism for initiating construction of the wall for fencing the lake without removing silt and not conducting a survey to clear the encroachments on the lake land. Residents claim that over five acres of lake land has been converted into a private layout, with the land mafia having sold some residential sites.

"We have struggled a lot to convince our elected representative to get funds for the lake's rejuvenation. We want to thank our MLA for getting funds sanctioned to rejuvenate the lake. I want the BBMP Lakes Department to fence the lake after the rejuvenation of the lake is completed," said Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist.

The BBMP organised a public consultation in December 2020 to discuss the rejuvenation of Vengaiah Lake. The BBMP Lakes Department decided to fence the lake and construct a sewage diversion channel. Bangalore Mirror published a story – Finally, succour for forgotten Vengaiah Lake – on December 16, 2020, narrating how the lake has been craving attention for over a decade.

The residents complained against the BBMP authorities for developing a park on the vacant land adjacent to the lake at an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore, even though rejuvenation of the lake was the need of the hour.

Demanding the authorities to recover the land, worth hundreds of crores, from those who have grabbed the lake land, Rathna Bharata Raitha Samaja State President Lakshman L has said the authorities have failed to act against land grabbers despite complaints received from the environmentalists and residents.

"I want the BBMP Lakes Department to pressurise and convince the revenue department to conduct a survey and recover the lake land encroached by the land mafia, which colludes with politicians and government authorities," said Lakshman L.

> **"We have struggled a lot to convince our elected representative to get funds for the lake's rejuvenation.**
>
> – Balaji Raghotham, lake activist

Coming down heavily on the BBMP authorities Narayana N, a resident of KR Puram, has demanded the rejuvenation of Vengaiah Lake as early as possible. "There will be no use if the authorities fail to prevent sewage from flowing into the lake. The BWSSB authorities have to inspect the area around the lake to find people letting sewage into the lake," said Narayana. BBMP Lakes Department Executive Engineer Bhooprada said the fence around the lake was part of the rejuvenation plan.

'Will set right discordant notes': Vijayendra

Newly appointed BJP Karnataka President BY Vijayendra on Sunday said he would "set right" any discordant notes over his appointment in the coming days and take everyone along.

"If there are any minor differences, then my priority will be to take the party forward with the blessings and guidance of seniors in the party. I will set right any discordant notes in the coming days," the son of BJP veteran B S Yediyurappa told reporters here.

The 47-year-old, who is a first-time MLA from Shikaripura in Shivamogga district, replaced Nalin Kumar Kateel, a three-time Lok Sabha member from Dakshina Kannada, who had completed his three-year term as BJP state president and was given an extension last year in view of the assembly elections held in May this year.

BJP legislature party meet will be held on Thursday or Friday to pick the opposition leader. BJP central observers will attend the meeting

The party, which was ousted from power by the Congress in the elections, has not yet decided on the opposition leader in the Karnataka assembly.

According to Vijayendra, a BJP legislature party will be held on Thursday or Friday to pick the opposition leader. BJP central observers will attend the meeting.

"We may have been defeated in the election, but keeping all that aside, we will put more effort into winning all those seats we had won last time in the upcoming Lok Sabha election," Vijayendra underlined. Regarding BJP-JD(S) ties, he said discussions had taken place at the central level. He said he would go to Delhi and discuss with the seniors in the party how to carry it (ties) forward.

—PTI

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Mistaken identity

The Hasanamba temple, which opens for a limited time each year, is currently experiencing a huge influx of devotees. Police stationed at the temple are facing challenges in managing the crowds. In a recent incident, a lady constable, unable to recognise Excise Minister RB Thimmapur, halted him when he attempted to enter the temple using the VVIP queue. Rather than engaging in an argument, the minister chose to offer prayers and exit. Some officials intervened, informing the constable of the minister's status, and she apologised to allow him through. However, other waiting devotees suggested that VVIP queues be banned, advocating for a uniform queue pattern for everyone.

Filmy style

In terms of local buses, they are expected to operate on service roads and avoid entering the main carriageway. Unfortunately, many buses continue to violate this rule. Commuters waiting at bus bays on the service road face difficulties, as they cannot cross medians to catch the bus on the main road. Recently, an industrialist took a dramatic approach on the Mangaluru-Kerala border road in Dakshina Kannada district to address errant bus drivers. The industrialist blocked the route in front of a bus on the main carriageway by sitting on a stool, compelling the driver to return to the service road.

Losing his cool

During a recent press conference, former Deputy Chief Minister KS Eshwarappa displayed impatience when journalists posed various questions. Interrupting the questioning session, Eshwarappa expressed frustration, stating that he had invited journalists to listen to his statements. "I have asked you to come and listen to what I say; don't keep interrupting me with your questions. Ask only those questions related to my statements and refrain from asking unrelated ones."

Drought relief concerns

At the recent KDP meeting in Hassan, Siddaramaiah questioned the Tahsildar about the funds available in the department for drought relief works. Seeking clarity on the financial capability of the department, Siddaramaiah stressed the importance of having adequate resources for providing relief during drought conditions. In another meeting, he had previously announced free power and water for schools on November 1. During an interaction with the press, when asked about extending this benefit, he clarified, "Earlier, I mentioned that we would provide free power and water to schools, meaning the government would bear the charges. Now, we intend to extend the same to junior colleges as well."

First businessman

DK Shivakumar often asserts that he has ventured into various businesses. During a recent programme, he mentioned that his initial foray into business was in the poultry industry. "While I was studying in PU, I underwent poultry training for a fortnight. Subsequently, I initiated a poultry business on my farmland. Unfortunately, it incurred losses, and I burned my fingers," he revealed. Shivakumar added that despite his shift to vegetarianism three years ago, giving up his love for chicken and eggs, he remains committed to promoting poultry and its products.

Jalebi fair extravaganza

In Shahpur taluk, Yadgir district, the 'Jalebi' fair turned into an extraordinary celebration, leaving a lasting impression on the village. The event not only drew participants from various communities within the village but also attracted residents from neighbouring villages who eagerly converged to partake in the festivities. The aromatic swirls of freshly prepared jalebis permeated the air, creating a delightful ambience filled with the sweet essence of this traditional Indian delicacy.

—Sridhar Vivan

Smashing win for men in blue

Perfect India beat Netherlands by 160 runs in World Cup

India beat the Netherlands by 160 runs on Sunday to finish undefeated in their nine matches in the league stage at the World Cup.

Shreyas Iyer (128 not out) and KL Rahul (102) powered the hosts to 410-4 before nine different bowlers were used to dismiss the Dutch for 250 in the tournament's last group stage match in Bengaluru.

India play New Zealand in the first semi-final on Wednesday. Australia and South Africa clash in the second semis the next day.

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Match of records

India reached a remarkable feat and became the first team in a World Cup edition where all batters in the top five scored fifty plus runs in an ODI innings. The milestone was achieved in the 45th match of the ODI World Cup 2023.

Following India's inning against Netherlands in Bengaluru, the 'Men in Blue' became the second team where the top five batting order scored fifties.

Earlier the record was held by Australia, the Aussies achieved it two times against India in 2013 and 2020.

However, India is the first team in World Cup where all batters in the top 5 scored 50+ runs in an ODI innings.

After India's 410/4 against Netherlands, Rohit Sharma's side became the fifth team with highest team totals in ODI World Cup. South Africa still hold the top place on the list after the made 428/5 against Sri Lanka in Delhi.

The 'Men in Blue' achieved another landmark of most half-centuries by India in a single World Cup edition on Sunday. In the 2023 edition of the prestigious tournament, the host country slammed 20 half-centuries.

Agencies

BM Finance Fundas

There are many drawbacks of investing in physical gold. One should weigh the merits between physical gold and paper gold

Buying gold? 5 tips you should consider before investing

A good number of Indians consider Deepawali and gold buying almost synonymous. While this gold-buying tradition may be very old, it has faced concerns regarding safety, purity, authenticity, taxation and yield of the yellow metal.

If you are planning to buy or invest in gold, here are some smart tips to help you get the investment right.

Authenticity and purity

If you are planning to buy gold jewellery, remember that hallmarking is mandatory for purity levels of 24 carats, 23 carats, 22, 20, 18 and 14 carats. "One should bear in mind the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) mark which is a sign of the hallmark indicating purity and the fineness number," says Colin Shah, MD, Kama Jewelry. "The gold jewellery must be assessed to check its purity in order to put the BIS logo on it. Keep an eye out for the jeweller's 's mark as it indicates where the gold is purchased from. The BIS's website has a list of certified jewellers."

If you are buying bullion gold, you need to be very sure about the credibility and reputation of the seller, as hallmarking is not mandatory in this category.

Limit physical gold exposure

There are many drawbacks of investing in physical gold. "One should weigh the merits between physical gold and paper gold. Physical gold, like coins, bars, jewellery, has the tangible benefit of direct ownership, but it also comes with challenges related to security and storage," says Tarun Birani, Founder and CEO of TBNG Capital Advisors.

If you are buying jewellery, you will have to pay more on account of impurity and making charges. You may not be able to make up for this payment when you wish to liquidate or exchange the jewellery.

Another big concern with physical gold is safety. Storing it in a bank locker or protecting it through an insurance policy means paying an annual cost for safekeeping the gold.

Choose the right product for digital gold exposure

Investors now have a variety of virtual gold investment options. You can now invest through digital gold, gold exchange traded funds (ETFs), gold mutual funds and sovereign gold bonds.

However, not all options work the same way. You must figure out which digital route works the best for you.

Many jewellers give a systematic investment plan (SIP) option. This gold investment can be redeemed any time or after maturity by converting the holding into physical gold. To avoid any last-minute surprises, you must go through the terms and conditions of the investment option.

Other virtual options to invest in gold may work better.

"Paper gold — such as ETFs, mutual funds and sovereign gold bonds (SGBs) — offers ease of trading and doesn't require storage. Sovereign bonds can even accrue periodic interest, making it an attractive alternative for pure investment purposes. To add to that, SGBs have tax advantages too if held till maturity," says Birani.

If you are not sure about the tenure of your investment and may need money midway, gold ETFs and gold mutual funds could be better options. However, if you are ready to lock in your fund for a long term, there is no better option than SGBs.

Avoid bulk investment

Even when gold is a good investment, avoid buying too much of it at one go. This is because gold is known for uneven price volatility. "The investment approach towards gold benefits from recognising its cyclical behaviour, with periods of rapid growth often followed by corrections," says Birani.

Given the volatile nature of gold in the short run and good returns in the long run, it is better to invest in gold in tranches.

Income tax implication

Profit earned on selling gold you have been holding for more than 36 months is called long-term capital gains (LTCG). Profit on a sale before that period is called short-term capital gains (STCG).

According to the Income Tax Act, you have to pay a tax of 20% and a cess of 4% on long-term capital gains from selling gold. This means the effective tax rate on gold is 20.8% if you sell it after holding it for 3 years or more.

However, this rate does not apply to short-term capital gains. In the case of STCG, the tax is based on your income bracket.

When it comes to paper gold, the rule does not change. So effectively one needs to pay short-term capital gain tax according to one's income tax slab and long-term capital gain tax at 20.8%.

Naveen Kumar, ET Online

This anganwadi is no place for kids

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The decrepit anganwadi centre near Vasanth Nagar; plastic pots used to collect water; old and unused items and broken wooden benches dumped in the passage block access to the restroom

"Children are hesitating to use the restrooms. I have no other option than allowing them to attend nature's call at open space outside the building," said a teacher pleading anonymity. Waste material is dumped on the passage to the restrooms; lights in the passageway are not working. Water leaks from the roof of the building and walls turn damp during the monsoon.

Yet another problem that haunts the teachers and children is the lack of water at the building that houses the anganwadi and nursery school. The teachers or assistants have to draw water from a nearby BBMP hospital for cooking as well as for ablutions.

"I have to bring water from the BBMP Namma Clinic building. The borewell is not working. I have complained to the BBMP authorities. They have assured me to repair the borewell," said a teacher.

The teacher said she is worried about the safety of children due to the overgrown weeds adjacent to the building. Upon a visit, this correspondent found a mattress and a defunct auto rickshaw on the spot. When enquired, some people seen loitering on the premises said they do not know who abandoned the auto rickshaw on the premises.

Meanwhile, BBMP assistant executive engineer (solid waste management) assured to clear the weeds and garbage on the premises. "One of the teachers has informed me about the dumping of waste and the weeds. I will send workers to clean the place," said the engineer.

Demanding the authorities concerned to provide basic amenities at the anganwadi and nursery school, Child Rights Trust director Nagasimha G Rao described the lack of basic amenities a violation of child rights and indeed 'very sad'.

"Anganwadis are for the development of children. How can you expect development of children under these conditions?" asked Rao. Commission for Protection of Child Rights member Manju S said the unhygienic atmosphere and lack of basic facilities are a violation of child rights.

"The government opened anganwadi centres to provide play equipment, water, food, and a clean environment for the benefit of children. I want the authorities concerned to fix all the problems at the anganwadi centre and nursery school. The need of the hour is to keep the premises clean and neat to prevent children from falling sick due to mosquitos and unhygienic conditions," said Manju.

BBMP assistant commissioner (education) Kumar said the BBMP east zone chief engineer has directed the ward engineer to take up repair work of the building that houses the anganwadi centre and nursery school. "I am confident that all the problems will be fixed within a week," said the assistant Commissioner.

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personal

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I, Aditya Arya R/o B204, Svs Palms 2, Chennapanahalli Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Doddanekundi, Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560037 have changed my minor daughter's name from Niya Arya to Niya Agarwal.

I Shalini Mishra W/O, Vinod Dubey R/o House #136, Vanashankari, Kalkere, Horamavu, Bangalore - 560043. have changed my name to Shalini Rajendra Mishra.

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What brings you to the lake?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While the majority of respondents were coming to lakes for exercise, some were into photography and relaxation.

Seventy per cent of the respondents were visiting lakes for exercise, 18% wanted to relax, 9% were into nature/bird watching/photography, and the remaining 3% had no specific purpose.

In all, 318 respondents liked the environment, water, and fresh air of the lakes; 60 respondents liked the amenities within the lake: walk path, benches, gym area & children's area, meantime, 50 respondents expressed they enjoyed the company of the birds at the lake.

When asked about what they disliked about the lake, a majority complained about the odour; 57 out of 394 surveyed individuals expressed foul smells make them dislike the lake, 90 members responded that unsafe walking path during rains were a worry, 64 members expressed that unclean atmosphere due to non-maintenance in the lake vicinity including toilets is a red flag, 30 members expressed concern over stray dogs and cattle on the walking path and a small number of respondents did not like the damaged gym/play equipment and broken benches.

Need more amenities

Majority of lake users needed more amenities, 131 members said they would like to see some changes in amenities mainly around walk paths and toilets; 67 respondents wanted to see an improvement in water quality. Based on the report, lake activists suggested that BBMP should consider adding more benches that would help all lake users alongside placing dustbins and undertaking proper maintenance to curtail plastic/garbage, and constructing toilets at Chunchaghatta and Kothnur lakes.

They demanded proper maintenance of the toilets at Dorekere, removal of the prohibition of nature photography by security personnel, taking necessary measures to stop sewage entry during the dry season alongside ensuring plants in wetland/lake waters are harvested at regular intervals to maintain water quality under class D, as prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board.

"We wanted to document lake user expectations and understand what brings them to lakes. We conducted the survey with the help of students from Oxford College and St Joseph University. We found lake users were facing issues mainly with not being able to use the pathways during monsoon, lack of adequate toilets and improper maintenance of existing facilities. The provision of such facilities is critical, especially for senior citizens. Complaints were raised about the water quality," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur of Action Aid, India.

HEALTH TIP: Sunflower seeds are a great source of Vitamin E and are also rich in healthy fats, protein, and other nutrients

Broccoli offers a high nutritive and dietetic value with good measure of proteins, vitamins, minerals and dietary fiber

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All you need to know about...

Lockdown effect

Rise in ADHD
While covid-19 lockdowns had a major impact on children's mental health, new research now highlighted how those impacted ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) risk in 10-year-old children.

Genetic risk aggravated
According to a study by the University of Copenhagen, kids in this age group who already had a genetic risk of developing ADHD witnessed a "significant increase" in diagnoses after the pandemic.

The study
Researchers analysed two groups of children, a total of 593, in 2019 and 2021, reports Fox News. They discovered that children with polygenic risk scores (PRS) for behaviour and attention problems had a significant increase in ADHD diagnoses after the lockdown. Those who had low PRS did not show that increase. (Polygenic risk scores measure an individual's genetic disposition to any given disease.)

Mental health issues
"We found that the results from our data, regarding our cohort in Denmark, replicated what many studies had already reported with other samples -- the lockdown related to the Covid-19 pandemic was associated with an increase in mental health problems in children," Maria Hernandez Lorca, lead author of the study and a researcher at the University of Copenhagen, was quoted as saying.
"The results showed that only the group of children with the high genetic risk for ADHD displayed an increase in mental health problems. Our findings suggest that under a stressor, (like) the lockdown, your genetic makeup significantly influences your mental health," she added.

Limitations
Lorca also acknowledged that the study did have some limitations. "The children examined before and after the lockdown were not the same children. Therefore, we cannot conclusively state that the lockdown increased mental health problems -- rather, we observed more mental health problems," she pointed out.

—IANS

MAKE VROOM FOR SENIORS

Experiences of older drivers can help design cleaner and safer cars

The current pace of technological change in automobile technology rivals the period about a century ago when cars were moving from the exotic fringes of transportation into the lives of ordinary people.

The automobile has reshaped the world, giving rise to new freedoms and greater access to distant places, creating jobs and wealth and changing the physical landscape with roads, service stations, dealerships and suburbs.

Cars have brought incredible convenience, but their proliferation has also resulted in traffic jams, oppressive freeways, pollution and high-speed crashes. And, cars have played a big part in accelerating climate change.

Car transformations

Automobile design is undergoing massive shifts. Cars are moving away from gasoline-powered internal combustion engines and toward electric vehicles that generate far less pollution and noise. Cars are getting safer, too, with sensors and cameras that can help drivers avoid collisions.

Self-driving cars don't seem too far off either, but until then, automobile design should consider the changing needs of drivers.

For all drivers, but especially those who are older and more experienced, cars that can do more without involving the driver present both an opportunity and a threat. This presents an opportunity to support safe, independent driving for longer, in keeping with extended lifespans, and address the social and practical needs of seniors to move around.

The threat is that a more autonomous car may lull drivers into feeling safer and make it harder to understand when drivers with health-related changes should no longer remain on the road. In fact, with added technology, driving can require more advanced skills.

Safer for older drivers

In my research, I work closely with older drivers, branches of government and automakers to ensure cars are as safe as can be.

I discussed these issues when I was invited to address Canada's Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications in 2017. My colleagues and I continue to do research in partnership with older drivers and others, including Transport Canada and the Canadian Automobile Association.

An important goal of my research and teaching is to help everyone — including seniors — understand that aging drivers are a growing yet varied group with a wide range of physical and cognitive abilities — and that, statistically speaking, seniors are involved in fewer crashes than their middle-aged counterparts. In other words, age alone does not determine who is safe or unsafe to be behind the wheel.

Declining health

We need to plan as humanely and responsibly as we can for the fact that, especially in the upper range of this demographic group, health-related declines and medical changes can happen quickly and are not always readily apparent.

For example, working with an advisory group of people with lived experience with dementia, my colleagues and I developed the driving and dementia roadmap. This is a free online resource to help health professionals, caregivers and individuals living with this disease be safer on the road.

As cars change, it is critical that manufacturers, engineers and regulators consider how drivers, particularly those in their later years, will respond to and engage with emerging technologies. It is also important to ensure new technology is created with older drivers in mind as much as anyone else, in keeping with the principles of universal design.

That includes making sure that getting in and out of a car, orienting oneself on the road and controlling all the systems of a vehicle are friendly to all drivers.

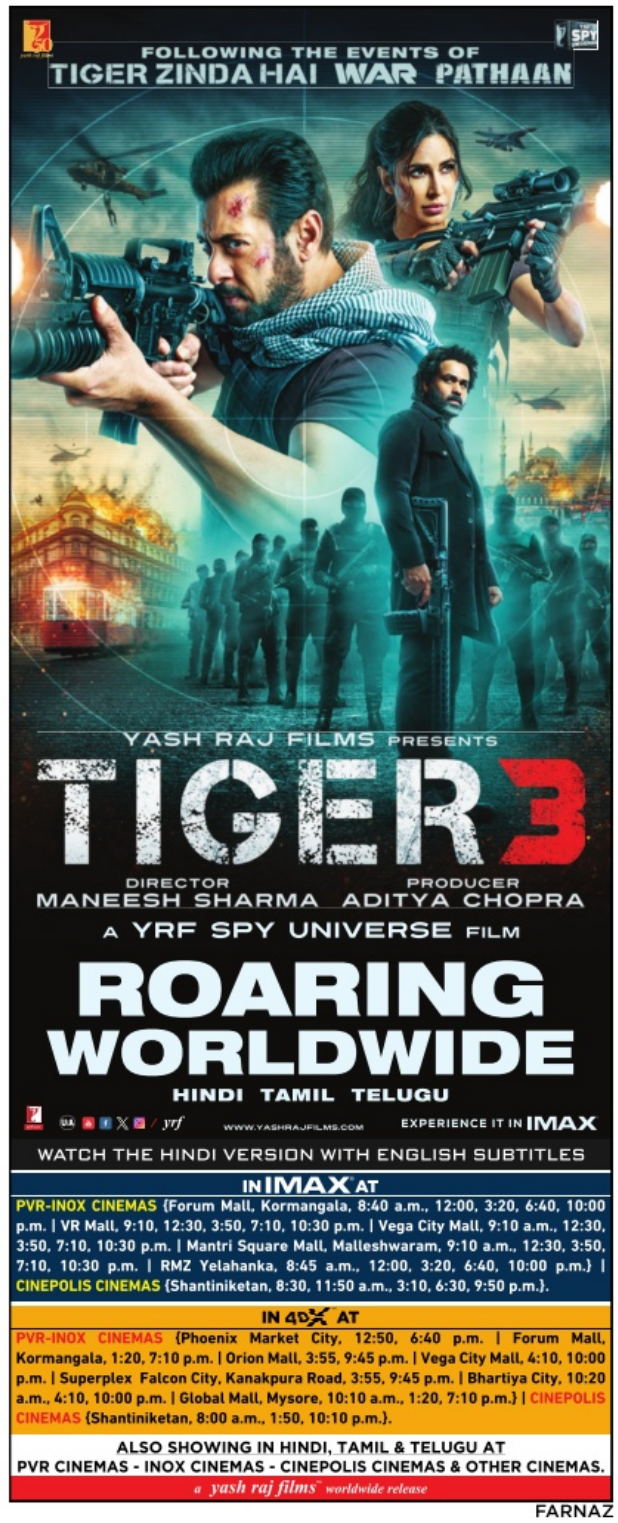
Informed and transformed design

My research team is embarking on a project in conjunction with our engineering colleagues and students at the McMaster Automotive Resource Centre, where we are inviting older drivers to volunteer and share their driving-related experiences. The aim is to inform the design of a 2023 Cadillac LYRIQ, an electric SUV, as part of the North American EcoCar EV Challenge.

The mandate of this contest is not just to make vehicles that are as efficient and as easy on the environment as possible, but also to optimise their safety and accessibility for drivers of different ages and abilities.

A modern car with fully loaded safety features and powered without gas will only be a great success if it's designed for those who will use it. By involving older drivers — the most experienced on today's roadways — in their research and development, the cars of tomorrow can be made clean, safe and accessible for all.

(By Brenda Vrkljan, McMaster University, The Conversation)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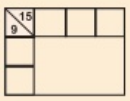
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$(\sqrt{(1/2)})^2 \div (\sqrt{(1/8)})^2 = x$

$x = ?$

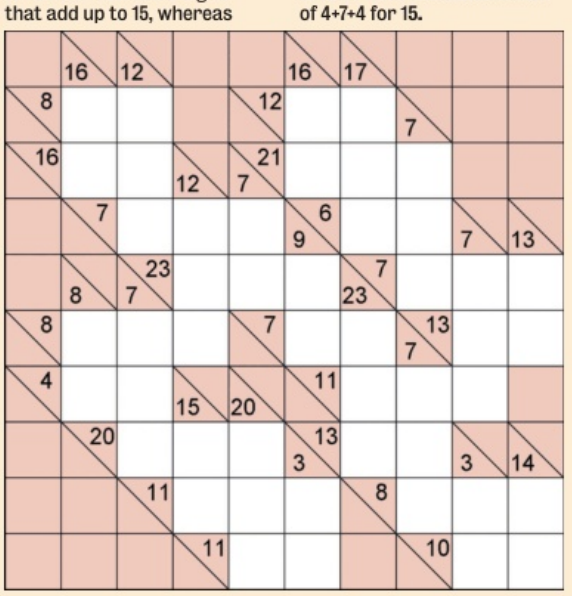
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

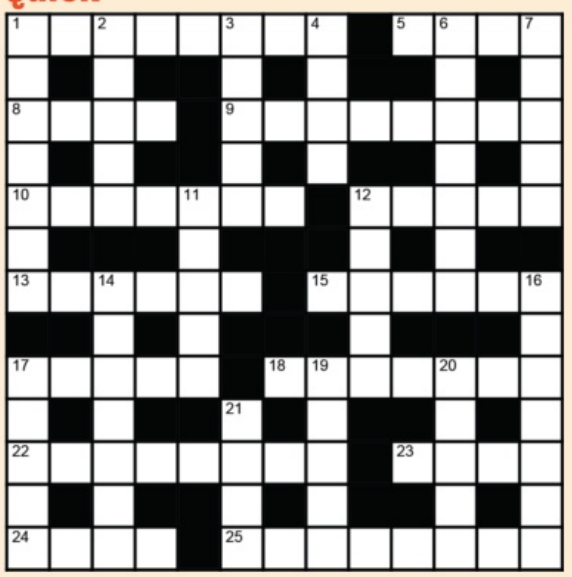


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 String of beads (8)
5 Sound of a cough (4)
8 Concealing headpiece (4)
9 Baked and crusty eatables (8)
10 Attacks or assaults (7)
12 Terse, condensed and forcible (5)
13 Horse's fastest pace (6)
15 Dig up (6)
17 Lie in ___ : be devastated? (5)
18 Because of (7)
22 Uncalled for (8)
23 The dramatic conflict between the chief characters in a literary work (4)
24 Inquisitive (4)
25 Very, very lazy? (4,4)

DOWN

1 Theatre at Rajaji Nagar (7)
2 Baby beds (5)
3 Dismay or horrify (5)
4 Born Free lioness (4)
6 Raised or hauled up (7)
7 Mouldy, stale; antiquated (5)
11 Links club (5)
12 More chaste or clean (5)
14 Hangs about (7)
16 Raise the value of (7)
17 A quarrel or a spat (3,2)
19 Is wearing, in a way? (3,2)
20 Advised strongly (5)
21 A part of speech (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS G

YO WHI UOHMI IAEXSIB OZWOQE CD BASIB PMAG EXO FIAYI EA EXO NIFIAYI.

Linemaro

I don't speak much English, but with you, all I really need to say is beautiful

Mindchow

Tension is who you think you should be. Relaxation is who you are

Joke of the day

You may have a heart of gold, but so does a hard-boiled egg

Loop

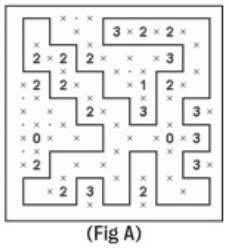
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

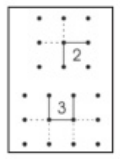
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

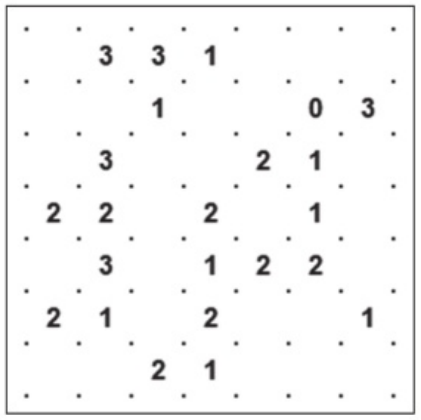
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



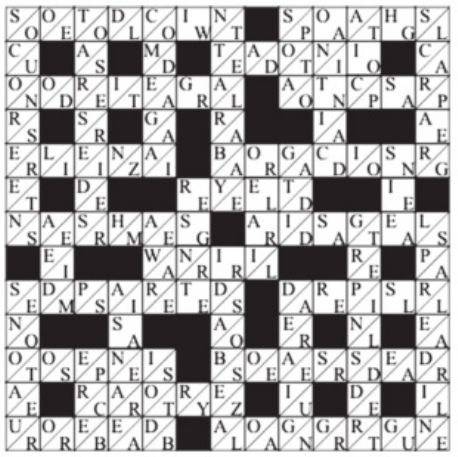
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



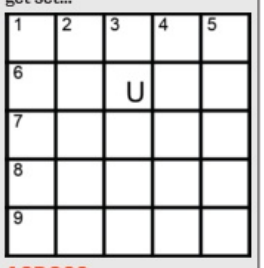
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

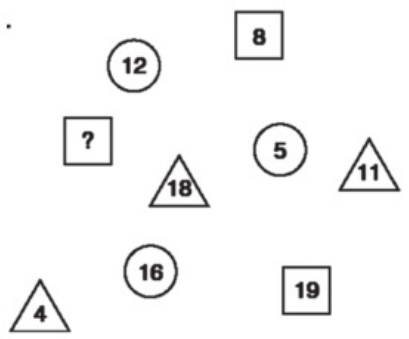
1 Pares; 6 I rune;
7 An err; 8 Sates;
9 St eke

DOWN

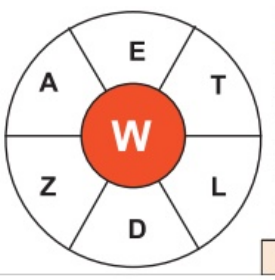
1 Tarsi; 2 Snake;
3 Super; 4 A seer;
5 Enter

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

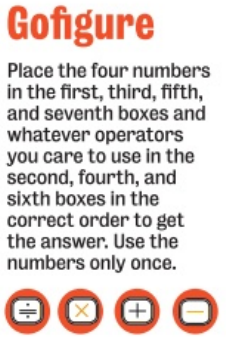
SudokuChallenge

8				9				3
7			2		1			4
	3						6	
5	2		8	4	9		7	6
1	4		7	6	5		3	2
	1						8	
9			6		8			1
2				7				5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

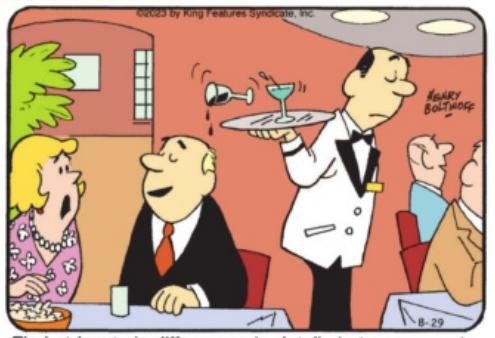


Easy ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 22
3 4 7 8

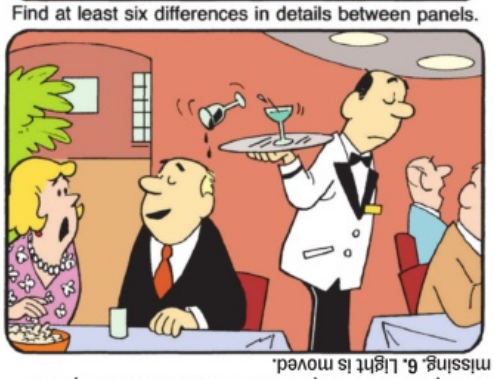
Medium ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 18
4 5 5 7

Hard ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ = 4
2 3 5 2

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



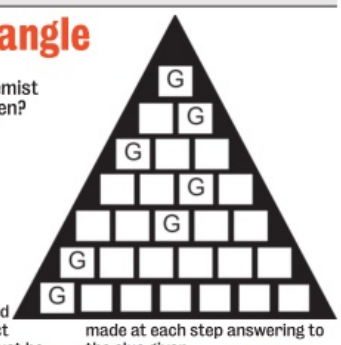
Differences: 1. Glass is moved. 2. Mouth is different. 3. Stripe is added to pants. 4. Table is wider. 5. Lapel is missing. 6. Light is moved.

Riddler

On a clock, the big and small hand are exactly between 1 and 2. Both hands lie on top of each other. What time is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Gravity, symbol
2 Silver for the chemist
3 Methane or oxygen?
4 Wise person
5 Fits of anger
6 Oily
7 Spins



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

HOW LONG BEFORE I CAN SEE THE MEDICINE MAN?
DEPENDS ON WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS
THE WEIGHT OF MY WALLET HAS PULLED A MUSCLE IN MY BACK!
GANGWAY! CODE BLUE!

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

HERMAN'S ANNUAL HIDEOUS SUNBURN:
I'VE GOTTA TELL YOU, HERMAN...
THAT IS ONE IMPRESSIVE SUNBURN
YOU LOOK LIKE THE HUMAN TORCH WITH A BEER GUT
THANK YOU, I THINK
TOO HIDEOUS FOR PUBLICATION

Hart of the city

REMEMBER, WHEN WE PICK UP CHARLOTTE, GIVE HER FLOWERS AND THEN SHAKE HER MOM'S HAND.
WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO IT OUT OF ORDER AND SHAKE HER MOM'S HAND FIRST?
DISASTER.

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, your willpower may help you start new innovations on the work front. You are likely to receive a significant order in your parental business, fostering growth in the near future. New responsibilities at your job may keep you busy, and job seekers might secure a good job. Improved understanding with your spouse can maintain harmony in family life.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may face health issues that could make you impatient. Avoid spending your hard-earned money on worthless items. Control your short temper, and lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on trivial topics to prevent potential breakups.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may meet influential people who can assist in the progress of your work. Strengthen your network by implementing new ideas into your work or business. Planning to invest more capital may lead to financial gains in the near future. In terms of domestic life, you'll be busy with family gatherings and social events.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your mother's health may be good, and you'll enjoy rewards for your hard work. Social respect may increase, but overworking may make you tired, potentially causing you to miss a family event due to workload.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be satisfied with your work and plan a short work-related trip. Visiting a religious place may help maintain inner peace, and guidance from your mentors may provide clarity regarding your goals.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel dull, so keep your mind cool and think twice before any action. Travel may be necessary to recover money, and it's advised to avoid adventurous tours. Students should engage in in-depth study for success.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel good, with domestic harmony bringing happiness. Meeting influential people may benefit your work. Expect good performance in your job, and promotions may be on the horizon. Disputes in inherited property may likely settle down.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be healthy and focused on your goals. Your performance at work may impress your boss, leading to important responsibilities. Good news in legal matters and control over opponents and business rivals are likely.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, negativity may surround you, and responsibilities may feel burdensome. Hurrying to complete tasks could lead to mistakes and a slowdown in efficiency, affecting your professional life. Seek advice from elders or consultants before making important decisions.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may prioritize gaining knowledge and controlling your short temper. Smooth earnings and comfort in workflow may come with some changes. Be cautious before making new investments, and spending money for loved ones is likely. Lovebirds may enjoy happy moments.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, enthusiasm and focus may speed up postponed projects. Subordinates may help start new projects, leading to future profits. Expect short trips related to family issues, and job seekers may receive good news regarding employment.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, control your expenditure on worthless things to increase savings. Tap into your creativity at work or home to enhance your social status. Lovebirds may receive support from family members for marriage, and students may hear good news in academics.

KIDZONE

Mahiya Madhukar, 12 Years, Carmel Convent

Trishna Malkane, 6 Years, New Horizon Gurukul

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
x = 1/2 ÷ 1/8 =
x = 1/2 X 8/1
x = 8/2
x = 4

BULL'S EYE
awed, dwelt, lewd, wade, wale, waltz, WALTZED, weal, weld, welt

FAST FIVE

A	S	P	E	R
I	N	U	R	E
R	E	R	A	N
T	A	S	S	E
S	K	E	E	T

QUOTE UNCODE
We can learn nothing except by going from the known to the unknown.

STRIKE OUT

R	O	B	E	D	■	L	O	N	G	R	U	N	■	■
E	■	C	R	O	R	E	■	I	■	E	■	I	■	■
T	O	P	E	S	■	B	E	A	R	D	E	D	■	■
N	■	S	■	A	■	R	■	N	■	A	■	■	■	■
E	M	P	I	R	E	S	■	D	R	I	L	L	■	■
■	■	I	■	A	N	I	L	■	R	■	A	■	■	■
S	A	S	H	E	S	■	A	D	A	G	E	S	■	■
T	■	E	■	E	Y	E	D	■	E	■	■	■	■	■
E	L	I	Z	A	■	B	R	A	C	I	N	G	■	■
S	■	R	■	G	■	R	■	I	■	A	■	■	■	■
N	O	R	I	E	G	A	■	A	T	P	A	R	■	■
U	■	M	■	E	A	T	N	O	■	C	■	■	■	■
S	E	T	D	O	W	N	■	P	A	T	H	S	■	■

QUICK

N	O	S	Y	■	B	O	N	E	I	D	L	E	■	■
I	■	R	■	O	■	E	■	C	■	■	■	■	■	■
N	E	D	L	E	S	S	■	A	G	O	N	■	■	■
U	■	T	■	V	■	R	■	A	■	■	■	■	■	■
R	U	I	N	S	■	T	H	R	O	U	G	H	■	■
■	■	O	■	N	■	■	■	N	■	■	■	■	■	■
G	A	L	L	O	P	■	D	R	E	D	G	E	■	■
N	■	R	■	U	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	S	S	A	I	L	S	■	P	I	T	H	Y	■	■
R	B	■	A	■	S	■	T	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
V	E	I	L	■	P	A	S	T	R	I	E	S	■	■
A	■	R	■	P	■	L	■	O	■	U	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
6: so that the numbers in the triangles, squares and circles add up to 33

RIDDLER
12:00. The hands lie exactly between the 1 and 2 in the number "12".

SUDOKU

2	8	6	1	7	3	4	9	5
9	7	4	6	5	8	3	2	1
3	1	5	9	2	4	6	8	7
1	4	8	7	6	5	9	3	2
6	9	7	3	1	2	5	4	8
5	2	3	8	4	9	1	7	6
4	3	1	5	8	7	2	6	9
7	6	9	2	3	1	8	5	4
8	5	2	4	9	6	7	1	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
G, Ag, Gas, Sage, Ragee, Greasy, Gyrates.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 3 + 8 + 4 = 22
Medium
4 x 5 – 7 + 5 = 18
Hard
2 x 5 + 2 / 3 = 4

LOOP

KAKURO

16	9	7	■	■	9	2	■	■
4	7	9	8	■	6	4	1	■
23	8	4	2	1	9	7	3	■
7	1	2	4	9	■	3	1	4
8	5	2	1	7	6	1	2	5
4	3	1	9	6	8	2	1	9
■	■	16	7	5	7	■	■	■
■	■	8	1	2	4	9	1	9

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She slays — Millie Bobby Brown has transformed into a hardcore warrior slaying dragons in the new trailer for her upcoming film 'Damsel'. Brown plays a dutiful damsel who agrees to marry a prince -- only to discover it was all a trap

BangaloreMirror | 12
Monday, November 13, 2023
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The real deal

Radhika Kumaraswamy was in a candid mood while celebrating her birthday on Saturday evening at her house in Dollars Colony. Arrangements were also made to release posters and a teaser of her two upcoming movies Bhairadevi and Ajagratha. While Bhairadevi is being made in Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu, Ajagratha is being made in seven languages.

About her role in Bhairadevi that focuses on female aghoris, Radhika said she is scared to visit a burial ground so she had asked the director to create a set featuring one instead. "The director insisted that I shoot at a real burial ground to ensure the scene is realistic. I worked very hard and even had to practice smoking from a chillum. I had a throat infection for a week after that," says Radhika.

On the challenging role, Radhika said the wig and the costumes she wore while facing the camera were heavy. "Though I suffered a lot during the shooting, now I am very happy after watching the teaser. It has come out well," says Radhika.

Radhika also dropped hints about her dream project details of which she will reveal soon. —Y Maheswara Reddy

LOVE THAT LIGHTS UP THE ROOM

Kiara, Sidharth celebrate first Deepawali post-marriage

Celebrity couple Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra are celebrating their first Diwali together after getting married.

On Sunday, Kiara took to her Instagram and extended heartfelt Diwali wishes to her fans with a string of adorable couple pictures. She captioned the post, "My love and light. Wishing you all a very Happy Diwali."

In the pictures, Sidharth and Kiara could be seen posing in ethnic outfits.

The 'Thank God' actor donned a black embroidered kurta, while Kiara wore a beautiful golden lehenga. Soon after she shared the pictures, her fans flooded the comment section with red heart emoticons.

Designer Manish Malhotra commented, "Your first Diwali after marriage .. lots of love and blessings," followed by multiple red heart emoticons. "So beautiful," a fan commented.

Another fan wrote, "the perfect match ever."

Sidharth-Kiara on Saturday arrived in Delhi to celebrate Diwali with their family members.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Sidharth will be seen in his upcoming film 'Yodha'. Apart from that, he will also be making his digital debut with the upcoming web series 'Indian Police Force'. Kiara will be seen in the upcoming 'Game Changer' alongside 'RRR' actor Ram Charan and an action thriller film 'War 2' alongside Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR." —ANI

Festival work

Tripti Dimri is working this Diwali and is now stationed in Bhopal to shoot for a yet to be titled upcoming film.

Known for her performances in projects such as 'Bulbul' and 'Qala', this Diwali may not be a time for relaxation for her, but Tripti doesn't really mind it either, as she quite likes her work.

Talking about working on a festive day, the actress said: "While I do miss the traditional Diwali celebrations with my family and close friends, I am grateful to be working on such an exciting project.

"Celebrating Diwali on the sets with my co-stars and the hardworking crew feels like a different kind of joy. I'm looking forward to savouring Diwali delicacies and creating beautiful memories with my film family."

The crew will later hold a party to celebrate the 'Festival of Lights'. The untitled film hasn't revealed any details yet, and is going all hush-hush.

Two of Triptii's upcoming projects include the 'Animal', where she will be seen alongside Ranbir Kapoor, and 'Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam'. — IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Suspense is on

RBalachandra who played one of the key characters in Mahanubhavaru besides bankrolling is back after a gap of six years, with a suspense thriller. Balachandra plays the lead, and has bankrolled and also directed Kannanjaru that is made under the RP Films banner.

"Kannanjaru is a small village in Udupi. Once, it was a forest. It is a fictional tale with elements such as crime, suspense, and romance. I decided to direct this movie as its script was very interesting. I learnt a lot during the shooting of my first film. The experience I got six years ago enabled me to direct this movie," said Balachandra.

The movie's shooting was done at Kannanjaru, Karkala, Udupi, Honnavar, and surrounding locations for 60 days. The team is busy with post production work. The movie's teaser will be launched shortly. "I consciously selected the name of the village (Kannanjaru) for the title of this movie. Audiences will understand why I did that when they watch the film. Puneeth Rajkumar and Murali had sung a song in Mahanubhavaru. There is something special about my latest movie too and I will reveal it shortly," the director said. Apoorva, Sharmitha Gowda, Ramakrishna, PS Sridhar, and Megha are the other cast in the movie.

Hard work pays

Dharmanna Kadur aka Dharmanna, who earned fame for his sterling performance in his maiden movie Rama Rama Re that was released in 2016, is excited about the release of his latest movie. Dharmanna has been playing character roles in Kannada movies since 2016. Now, he debuts as a hero with the movie Rajayoga.

"I am grateful to the producer and the director for giving me this opportunity. I play the role of a highly qualified youth. The movie is what happens to the youth. The movie has all elements to entertain the audiences," said Dharmanna.

The movie's song and trailer was launched on Thursday and the film is slated for release on November 17. .

According to director Lingaraja Uchangi Durga, the movie highlights how hard-working people are always blessed with good opportunities. "It is about a youth from a village coming to Bengaluru to attend a KAS exam. Whether or not he succeeds is what the movie reveals It is my maiden movie as a director," he said, adding that the movie also focuses on some people misusing astrology. Nireeksha Rao is paired opposite Dharmanna in the movie. "I play an educated homemaker who manages her household," said Nireeksha.